

“by ANY other means...”

2nd May 2020

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A. God’s plan. Salvation by Jesus = success. What God predicts will come to pass!

1. Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1 Tim. 1:15; Jn. 3:16-17).
2. Jesus ascended to heaven but promised to return (Jn. 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11).
3. If we wait for Him He will return (Heb. 9:28; Titus 2:13).
4. The world will be burned up by fire (2 Pet. 3:10-12).
5. God will re-create the world w/o sin (Isa. 65:17-19; 11:6, 9; 2 Pet. 3:13).
6. This is called God’s plan of salvation (Acts 4:12) and there is no other plan.

B. Warnings from God about Satan’s deceptions.

1. Gen. 3:1; 1 Pet. 5:8; Mt. 24:3-4; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Rev. 13:13; 16:13-14; 18:23; 19:20; 20:3; 2 Th. 2:9).

C. A brief summary of how Satan has attempted throughout history to thwart God’s plan.

1. Adam and Eve clothed themselves with fig leaves (Gen 3:7) representing their own works,
but God had them remove the fig leaves and clothed them in skins (Gen. 3:21).
2. After the flood Noah and his family were told to scatter across the earth and fill the earth but their descendants gathered together and built the tower of Babel (Gen. 11:4).
3. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream which revealed what world kingdoms would come but he substituted his own version of that dream (Dan. 2 and 3).
4. Righteousness by works - Many religions around the world are based upon works and earning your way to heaven (i.e. Chapel of St. Lawrence and the Scala Sancta in Rome).
5. Buying your way into righteousness - Called Simony (Acts 8:18-23). The world is going in debt. Today in the news we hear a lot about congress passing massive allotments of money to try and ease the losses from the COVID-19 pandemic. Salvation by money has always failed. Although many are thankful for the financial aid and relief will it really work to solve the world’s current issues?
6. Salvation by political means was tried by Barabbas (Mk. 15:6-7).
7. Salvation by Ideology has been tried many times over many issues (Protesting wars; protesting climate change, etc). Legislating religion or morals has always failed (Dan. 3).

D. Insights into current events. Look back over the things that have already been tried and see if there isn’t a parallel of current events today.

1. AA serenity prayer - God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot

change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

2. God gives us strength from His word (2 Cor. 4:16-18) and promises and His predictions of

what is His plan to come for the salvation of the world.

3. How important is your relationship to Jesus? (Mt. 10:37-39). It will carry you through all the

difficult events that are predicted to come.

4. God wants us to stay focused on the treasure He has given to us of sharing His plan of salvation for the world (2 Cor. 4:7).